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		Application Number	09/900,484
		Filing Date	July 6, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Jack B. Strong
		Group Art Unit Number	2173
		Examiner Name	Dennis G. Bonshock
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	60	Attorney Docket Number	24264-06165

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

APPLICANTS: Jack B. Strong, Jonathan J. Kleid, Vivek Patel and David Champlin
SERIAL NO.: 09/900,484
FILING DATE: July 6, 2001
TITLE: Translating Tabular Data Formatted for One Display Device to a Format for Display on Other Display Device
EXAMINER: Dennis G. Bonshock
GROUP ART UNIT: 2173
ATTY. DKT. NO.: 24264-06165

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APPEAL BRIEF

Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest in this Appeal is PalmOne, Inc.

02/15/2005 AWONDAF1 00000086 09900484

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Related Appeals and Interferences

No other prior or pending appeals, interferences or judicial proceedings are known to Appellant, Appellant's legal representative, or the Assignee that may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-38 are pending in this Application and stand rejected. Claims 1-38 are included in this Appeal.

Status of Amendments

There are no amendments pending in this Application.

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Applicants' claimed invention, as variously recited in claims 1-38, relates to a method and system for reformatting display data to fit on a smaller screen. Applicants' invention is specifically intended to operate on a display format where data can be organized in tabular format (such as HTML, which contains a <table> tag). Under certain circumstances, tabular data formatting is removed from the display data so that the data is no longer displayed as a table. An example of such removal and its result is shown in, for example, applicants' Figs. 8-10, 12 and, for example, described on page 12, line 3 through page 13, line 26, of applicants specification.

Claim 13, for example, recites: "removing tabular formatting from the display data to yield display data suitable for displaying on a second display device, the second display device having a smaller display area than the first display device."

Claim 18, for example, recites: “a nested table display heuristic module configured to examine tabular data, determine if the tabular data indicates nested tables, containing an inner table and at least one outer table, and remove tabular formatting from the at least one outer table if the outer table exists.”

Claim 23, for example, recites: “display heuristics software configured to examine tabular data in remote data pages and translate the tabular data from a first display format to a second display format.”

Grounds of Rejection

Claims 1-38 have been rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bertram (U.S. Patent # 5,812,131) in view of Nicolas (U.S. Patent # 6,593,944).

Argument

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Claims 1-4 and 18-22

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertram (U.S. Patent # 5,812,131) in view of Nicolas (U.S. Patent # 6,593,944). The claimed invention is drawn to methods and systems for reformatting display data between a first and second display device by removing tabular data from the first display device, as variously recited in claims 1-4 and 18-22.

In contrast, Bertram discloses an example where one wide table is broken into two tables for display (Figs. 9 and 10 of Bertram). The tables are still displayed as tables, but the table size is changed, as disclosed in column 10, lines 14-20. Nicholas, on the other hand, is related to the

idea of displaying web pages that are designed using the HTML “frames” feature by generating a frame-by-frame representation of the web-page to be displayed as disclosed in column 11, lines 27-39. In Nicholas, if a web page is found to have frames, the frames are displayed one by one, either in a predefined format or using a format determined by the software. No table formatting data is removed in either Bertram or Nicholas, nor is table formatting even mentioned at any level within Bertram and Nicholas.

While Bertram does discuss what to do if an entire table is too wide horizontally, Bertram does not discuss what happens if an individual cell element is too wide horizontally, or if more than one cell element is too wide. The cell elements shown in the example of Figs. 9 and 10 of Bertram do not exceed the width of the screen, so Bertram does not even address what would happen if an individual “cell element” exceeds a predetermined width. For this reason alone, Bertram fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claims 1-4 and 18-22, which recite at least this aspect of the invention.

Even if the Examiner’s suggested combination could be made, and was made, the resulting combination would not result in applicants’ claimed invention. The Examiner has admitted that Bertram does not disclose removing tabular formatting in paragraph 18, line 6 of the Final Action. However, the Examiner has relied on a passage in Bertram, column 3, lines 50-58, that allegedly provides one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention proper motivation to modify Bertram, thus rendering the removal of tabular data formatting an obvious choice of design. This passage (col. 3, lines 50-58) discloses the avoidance of rendering a display with empty cells or fields and how this type of display can be confusing to the user. At no point does this passage recite: “unnecessary tabular formatting in small screen devices is wasteful,” as recited from paragraph 18, line 11 of the Final Action. Even if Bertram or Nicolas

made such a statement, this type of disclosure would not render Applicant's claimed invention obvious because the claimed invention strives to retain a maximum amount of original formatting possible when translating from a first display format to a second display format. Therefore, neither Bertram nor Nicholas, alone or in combination, discloses removing tabular data formatting when translating tabular data between a first and second display format (emphasis added), as variously recited in claims 1-4 and 18-22.

Further regarding claims 1 and 18, neither Bertram nor Nicholas discloses nested tables. The Examiner admits in paragraph 3, lines 7-8 of the Final Action that Bertram completely fails to disclose treatment of nested tables. The Examiner relies upon Nicholas to provide a teaching relating to nested tables. Nicholas, however, completely fails to disclose tables of any kind, nested or otherwise.

Also, there is an absence of motivation in these references for removing tabular data formatting for the outer tables of a nested table (emphasis added), as recited in claim 1. Even if the tables in figures 9 and 10 of Bertram or the frames in figure 8 of Nicholas could be construed as the nested tables of the claimed invention, there is no disclosure in Bertram or Nicholas for removing tabular data formatting from the tabular data if the inner table contains less than one column or less than one row (emphasis added), as variously recited in claims 1 and 18.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 1-4 and 18-22 are considered patentable.

Furthermore, Bertram nor Nicolas disclose examining columns in the inner table to determine if more than one column contains a form input field, an image exceeding a maximum pixel width allowance, or text exceeding a maximum text length allowance (emphasis added), as recited in claim 2. For at least this reason, claim 2 is considered allowable over the prior art of record.

B. Claims 5-12

The Examiner rejected claims 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertram (U.S. Patent # 5,812,131) in view of Nicolas (U.S. Patent # 6,593,944). The claimed invention is drawn to methods and systems for reformatting display data between a first and second display device by removing tabular formatting from the first display device, as recited in claims 5-12.

In contrast, Bertram discloses an example where one wide table is broken into two tables for display (Figs. 9 and 10 of Bertram). The tables are still displayed as tables, but the table size is changed, as disclosed in column 10, lines 14-20. Nicholas, on the other hand, is related to the idea of displaying web pages that are designed using the HTML “frames” feature by generating a frame-by-frame representation of the web-page to be displayed as disclosed in column 11, lines 27-39. In Nicholas, if a web page is found to have frames, the frames are displayed one by one, either in a predefined format or using a format determined by the software. No table formatting data is removed in either Bertram or Nicholas, nor is table formatting even mentioned at any level within Bertram and Nicholas.

While Bertram does discuss what to do if an entire table is too wide horizontally, Bertram does not discuss what happens if an individual cell element is too wide horizontally, or if more than one cell element is too wide. The cell elements shown in the example of Figs. 9 and 10 of Bertram do not exceed the width of the screen, so Bertram does not even address what would happen if an individual “cell element” exceeds a predetermined width. For this reason alone, Bertram fails to disclose determining if columns in the tabular data contain image data exceeding a maximum pixel width allowance (emphasis added), as variously recited in claims 5-12.

Even if the Examiner's suggested combination could be made, and was made, the resulting combination would not result in applicants' claimed invention. The Examiner has admitted that Bertram does not disclose removing tabular formatting in paragraph 18, line 6 of the Final Action. However, the Examiner has relied on a passage in Bertram, column 3, lines 50-58, that allegedly provides one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention proper motivation to modify Betram, thus rendering the removal of tabular data formatting an obvious choice of design. This passage (col. 3, lines 50-58) discloses the avoidance of rendering a display with empty cells or fields and how this type of display can be confusing to the user. At no point does this passage recite: "unnecessary tabular formatting in small screen devices is wasteful," as recited from paragraph 18, line 11 of the Final Action. Even if Bertram or Nicolas made such a statement, this type of disclosure would not render Applicant's claimed invention obvious because the claimed invention strives to retain a maximum amount of original formatting possible when translating from a first display format to a second display format. Therefore, neither Bertram nor Nicholas, alone or in combination, discloses removing tabular formatting when translating tabular data between a first and second display format (emphasis added), as variously recited in claims 5-12. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 5-12 are considered patentable.

C. Claims 13-17 and 28-38

The Examiner rejected claims 13-17 and 28-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertram (U.S. Patent # 5,812,131) in view of Nicolas (U.S. Patent # 6,593,944). The claimed invention is drawn to methods and systems for reformatting display

data between a first and second display device by removing tabular formatting from the first display device, as variously recited in claims 13-17 and 28-38.

In contrast, Bertram discloses an example where one wide table is broken into two tables for display (Figs. 9 and 10 of Bertram). The tables are still displayed as tables, but the table size is changed, as disclosed in column 10, lines 14-20. Nicholas, on the other hand, is related to the idea of displaying web pages that are designed using the HTML “frames” feature by generating a frame-by-frame representation of the web-page to be displayed as disclosed in column 11, lines 27-39. In Nicholas, if a web page is found to have frames, the frames are displayed one by one, either in a predefined format or using a format determined by the software. No table formatting data is removed in either Bertram or Nicholas, nor is table formatting even mentioned at any level within Bertram and Nicholas.

Even if the Examiner’s suggested combination could be made, and was made, the resulting combination would not result in applicants’ claimed invention. The Examiner has admitted that Bertram does not disclose removing tabular formatting in paragraph 18, line 6 of the Final Action. However, the Examiner has relied on a passage in Bertram, column 3, lines 50-58, that allegedly provides one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention proper motivation to modify Bertram, thus rendering the removal of tabular data formatting an obvious choice of design. This passage (col. 3, lines 50-58) discloses the avoidance of rendering a display with empty cells or fields and how this type of display can be confusing to the user. At no point does this passage recite: “unnecessary tabular formatting in small screen devices is wasteful,” as recited from paragraph 18, line 11 of the Final Action. Even if Bertram or Nicolas made such a statement, this type of disclosure would not render Applicant’s claimed invention obvious because the claimed invention strives to retain a maximum amount of original

formatting possible when translating from a first display format to a second display format. Therefore, neither Bertram nor Nicholas, alone or in combination, discloses removing tabular formatting when translating tabular data between a first and second display format (emphasis added), as variously recited in claims 13-17 and 28-38. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 13-17 and 28-38 are considered patentable.

D. Claims 23-27

The Examiner rejected claims 23-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertram (U.S. Patent # 5,812,131) in view of Nicolas (U.S. Patent # 6,593,944). The claimed invention is drawn to methods and systems for reformatting display data between a first and second display device by examining tabular formatting from remote data pages, as variously recited in claims 23-27.

Claims 23-27 are variously drawn to a proxy server configured to examine tabular data in remote data pages and translate the tabular data from a first display format to a second display format. The methods disclosed by Bertram and Nicolas are not related to examining tabular data. The Examiner has relied upon a disclosure in col. 3, lines 65-67 of Bertram that relates to breaking apart tabular portions of documents and reflowing table elements. This passage, or any other passage within Bertram, does not disclose examining tabular data. Due to the fact that Bertram is completely silent with regards to examining tabular data, Bertram does not disclose translating tabular data from a first format to a second format, as recited by claims 23-27. As mentioned previously, Nicolas does not add any disclosure of tabular data, much less examining tabular data. Furthermore, there is no disclosure within Nicolas, or Bertram for that matter, which

would have provided motivation to a skilled artisan at the time of the invention to combine these two references. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 23-27 are considered patentable.

Conclusion

The Examiner admits that Bertram does not anticipate claims 1-38 and relies upon alleged teachings in Nicholas for a disclosure of removing tabular formatting data. Nicholas, however, as discussed above, contains absolutely no discussion of tables or of removing tabular formatting data. Therefore, Nicholas does not cure the deficiencies of Bertram and independent claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 18, and 23, and their dependent claims are allowable for at least this reason and the reasons noted above.

Accordingly, the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-38 were erroneous, and Applicants respectfully request that the Board reverse.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 2/9/05

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Claims Appendix

1 1. (Original) A method for translating tabular data prepared for a first display format

2 into a second display format, comprising:

3 determining if the tabular data includes nested tables, wherein the nested tables include an

4 inner table and outer tables;

5 removing tabular data formatting if the inner table contains less than one column or less

6 than one row;

7 removing tabular data formatting if the inner table contains more than one column

8 exceeding a first predetermined width allowance;

9 removing tabular data formatting if the inner table has a horizontal display length greater

10 than a second predetermined width allowance; and

11 removing tabular data formatting for the outer tables.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein removing tabular data formatting if the

2 inner table contains more than one column exceeding a first predetermined width allowance,

3 comprises:

4 examining columns in the inner table to determine if more than one column contains a

5 form input field, an image exceeding a maximum pixel width allowance, or text exceeding a

6 maximum text length allowance.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the maximum pixel width allowance is

2 120 pixels.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the maximum text length allowance is 40

2 characters.

1 5. (Original) A method of translating tabular data prepared for a first display format into
2 a second display format, comprising:

3 determining if columns in the tabular data contain image data exceeding a maximum
4 pixel width allowance;

5 determining if columns in the tabular data contains a form input field;

6 determining if columns in the tabular data contain text data exceeding a maximum text
7 length allowance; and

8 removing tabular formatting if more than one column in the tabular data contains image
9 data exceeding the maximum pixel width allowance, contains a form input field, or contains text
10 data exceeding a maximum text length allowance.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

2 determining if the tabular data exceeds an absolute maximum width allowance; and

3 removing tabular formatting if the tabular data exceeds the absolute maximum width
4 allowance.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the absolute maximum width allowance is
2 350 pixels.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

2 determining if the tabular data contains related images if the tabular data exceeds the
3 absolute maximum width allowance; and

4 sizing the related images to fit within the absolute maximum width allowance.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

2 determining if the tabular data contains more than a single row;

3 determining if the tabular data contains more than a single column; and

4 removing the tabular formatting if the tabular data contains only a single row or a single
5 column.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

2 determining if the tabular data contains nested tables, wherein the nested tables include an
3 inner table and at least one outer table;

4 removing tabular formatting for the at least one outer table.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the maximum pixel width allowance is

2 120 pixels.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the maximum text length allowance is 40

2 characters.

1 13. (Original) A method of reformatting display data, comprising:

2 receiving the display data in a format suitable for displaying on a first display device;

3 determining whether the received display data contains tabular data;

4 removing tabular formatting from the display data to yield display data suitable for
5 displaying on a second display device, the second display device having a smaller display area
6 than the first display device.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein removing the tabular formatting includes

2 removing one or more html table tags from the display data.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the display data is a web page.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the display data is HTML data.

1 17. (Original) A method of reformatting display data, comprising:
2 receiving the display data in a format suitable for displaying on a first display device
3 having first display area dimensions;
4 removing tabular formatting from the display data to yield display data suitable for
5 displaying on a second display device having second display area dimensions; and
6 sending the display data with the tabular formatting removed to the second display
7 device.

1 18. (Previously Presented) A system for translating tabular data from a first display
2 format to a second display format, comprising:
3 a single row/single column heuristic module configured to examine tabular data and
4 remove tabular formatting from the tabular data if the tabular data contains less than two
5 columns or less than two rows;
6 a maximum width display heuristic module configured to examine tabular data and
7 remove tabular formatting from the tabular data if the tabular data indicates a horizontal display
8 length exceeding an absolute maximum width allowance;
9 a wide column display heuristic module configured to examine tabular data and remove
10 tabular formatting if the tabular data contains more than one column exceeding a predetermined
11 maximum column width; and
12 a nested table display heuristic module configured to examine tabular data, determine if
13 the tabular data indicates nested tables, containing an inner table and at least one outer table, and
14 remove tabular formatting from the at least one outer table if the outer table exists.

1 19. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the wide column display heuristic module
2 further comprises:
3 a first column examiner configured to indicate that a column in the tabular data exceeds
4 the predetermined maximum column width if the column contains image data exceeding a

5 maximum pixel width allowance;
6 a second column examiner configured to indicate that a column in the tabular data
7 exceeds the predetermined maximum column width if the column contains a form input field;
8 and

9 a third column examiner configured to indicate that a column in the tabular data exceeds
10 the predetermined maximum column width if the column contains text data exceeding a
11 maximum text length allowance.

1 20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19 wherein the maximum pixel width
2 allowance is 120 pixels.

1 21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19 wherein the maximum text length
2 allowance is 40 characters.

1 22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the maximum width
2 display heuristics module further comprises:

3 a related image module configured to determine if images exceeding the absolute
4 maximum width allowance are related and resize related images to fit within the absolute
5 maximum width allowance.

1 23. (Original) A proxy server, comprising:
2 a processor configured to process requests for remote data pages received from portable
3 computing devices;
4 display heuristics software configured to examine tabular data in remote data pages and
5 translate the tabular data from a first display format to a second display format; and
6 a memory configured to retain the display heuristics software and data generated by the
7 display heuristics software during examination of the tabular data.

1 24. (Original) The proxy server of claim 23, wherein the display heuristics software
2 further comprises:

3 a single row/single column heuristic module configured to the examine tabular data and
4 remove tabular formatting from the tabular data if the tabular data contains less than two
5 columns or less than two rows.

1 25. (Original) The proxy server of claim 23, wherein the display heuristics software
2 further comprises:

3 a maximum width display heuristic module configured to examine the tabular data and
4 remove tabular formatting from the tabular data if the tabular data indicates a horizontal display
5 length exceeding an absolute maximum width allowance.

1 26. (Original) The proxy server of claim 23, wherein the display heuristics software
2 further comprises:

3 a wide column display heuristic module configured to examine the tabular data and
4 remove tabular formatting if the tabular data contains more than one column exceeding a
5 predetermined maximum column width.

1 27. (Original) The proxy server of claim 23, wherein the display heuristics software
2 further comprises:

3 a nested table display heuristic module configured to examine the tabular data, determine
4 if the tabular data indicates nested tables, containing an inner table and at least one outer table,
5 and remove tabular formatting from the at least one outer table.

1 28. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein removing tabular formatting comprises:
2 determining if the tabular data includes nested tables, wherein the nested tables include an
3 inner table and outer tables; and

4 removing tabular data formatting if the inner table contains less than one
5 column or less than one row.

1 29. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein removing tabular formatting comprises:
2 determining if the tabular data includes nested tables, wherein the nested tables include an
3 inner table and outer tables; and

4 removing tabular data formatting if the inner table contains more than one
5 column exceeding a first predetermined width allowance.

1 30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein removing tabular data formatting if the
2 inner table contains more than one column exceeding a first predetermined width allowance,
3 comprises:

4 examining columns in the inner table to determine if more than one column contains a
5 form input field, an image exceeding a maximum pixel width allowance, or text exceeding a
6 maximum text length allowance.

1 31. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein removing tabular formatting comprises:
2 determining if the tabular data includes nested tables, wherein the nested tables include an
3 inner table and outer tables; and
4 removing tabular data formatting if the inner table has a horizontal display length greater
5 than a second predetermined width allowance.

1 32. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein removing tabular formatting comprises:
2 determining if the tabular data includes nested tables, wherein the nested tables include an
3 inner table and outer tables; and
4 removing tabular data formatting for the outer tables.

- 1 33. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein removing tabular formatting comprises:
2 determining if columns in the tabular data contain image data exceeding a maximum
3 pixel width allowance; and
4 removing tabular data formatting if columns in the tabular data contain image data
5 exceeding the maximum pixel width allowance.
- 1 34. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein removing tabular formatting comprises:
2 determining if columns in the tabular data contain a form input field; and
3 removing tabular data formatting if columns in the tabular data contain at least
4 one form input field.
- 1 35. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein removing tabular formatting comprises:
2 determining if columns in the tabular data contain text data exceeding a maximum text
3 length allowance; and
4 removing tabular data formatting if columns in the tabular data contain text data
5 exceeding the maximum text length allowance.
- 1 36. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein removing tabular formatting comprises:
2 determining if the tabular data exceeds an absolute maximum width allowance; and
3 removing tabular data formatting if the tabular data exceeds the absolute maximum width
4 allowance.
- 1 37. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
2 if the tabular data exceeds the absolute maximum width allowance , determining if the
3 tabular data contains related images; and
4 sizing the related images to fit within the absolute maximum width allowance.

1 38. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
2 determining if the tabular data contains more than a single row;
3 determining if the tabular data contains more than a single column; and
4 removing the tabular formatting if the tabular data contains only a single row or a
5 single column.

Evidence Appendix

No further evidence is submitted.

Related Proceedings Appendix

There are no related proceedings pertaining to the matter presented herein.